



The President's Daily Brief

~~Top Secret~~ 12 November 1966



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DAILY BRIEF
12 NOVEMBER 1966

1. North Vietnam

Ho Chi Minh told [redacted]

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[redacted] that he realized the United States could not be forced to leave Vietnam by military action. Ho said he was counting on the American public eventually tiring of the "useless slaughter."

When asked about possible neutralization of all of Vietnam under international guarantees, Ho said he had given this much thought. He did not reject the idea.

Ho said very little about China and urged his visitor to remember that the Vietnamese are not Chinese.

2. Indonesia

Tensions are building up again in Djakarta and triumvirate member Malik predicts a very difficult week ahead. The drive to cut Sukarno down to size has now reached the point of another showdown. The cautious General Suharto, reluctant to precipitate a clash, seems to be hesitating. This is the kind of situation that plays into Sukarno's hands; he is making effective use of his old tactics of threat and bluff.

The precipitating issue now is the triumvirate's plan to fill more than 100 vacancies in parliament with appointees sympathetic to its goals. If this should bring on a clash, General Suharto's superior military support would almost surely prevail. The danger, of course, is that continued temporing could easily permit Sukarno further to exploit weaknesses in the government.

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3. Israel

Three Israeli soldiers were killed and six wounded early today when their vehicle ran over an Arab-planted mine about a mile inside Israel's border with Jordan. This is the first such case since the UN Security Council wound up its consideration of the Israeli complaint early last week. The new incident may well trigger the Israeli's expected retaliatory strike.

4. West Germany

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5. Greece

Premier Stephanopoulos hit an unexpected snag today which could touch off another extended political crisis. His candidate for parliamentary president was defeated by the newly reconvened legislature.

Stephanopoulos had made clear before the balloting that his government would stand or fall on the vote. There will be more balloting today, but it is uncertain whether the premier can win back the twelve deputies who defected to the opposition.

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Note: Late word from Athens indicates that Stephanopoulos has gotten his way and the threatened crisis has been averted.

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6.. Haiti

Duvalier has suddenly dismissed a number of military men, including some high-ranking officers [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] It is too soon to say whether this means that the plot has definitely been compromised. If it has, the plotters should have been dead or in jail by now. The conspirators in the military have nevertheless suffered a serious setback.

Port-au-Prince is quiet and all signs are that Duvalier remains confidently in control in his palace.

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[REDACTED]

There is no sign of any lessening in the unprecedented open anti-Duvalier sentiment that has been growing for several weeks in various parts of the country.

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